

Message Text

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46

ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W
----- 099599

R 060900Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6108
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, XF
SUBJECT: MODE-AGRICULTURE/FAS PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN AGATTACHE
IN ARABIAN PENINSULA

REF: STATE 181323

1. SANA HAS HAD FREQUENT AND VERY HELPFUL CONTACTS WITH AGATTACHE
PITCHER IN BEIRUT OVER LAST TWO YEARS. AS SUCH, REGIONAL FAS
OFFICER WHO COULD FOCUS MORE ON PENINSULA IMPORTS WOULD BE
WELCOMED.

2. YEMEN OVER PAST FEW YEARS HAS IMPORTED BETWEEN 80-100,000 MT
OF WHEAT, RICE, AND FLOUR ANNUALLY.(A WHEAT WAS GENERALLY FROM USSR
OR AKSTRALIA WHILE RICE IN RECENT YEARS LARGEST US EXPORT TO
YEMEN. DOUBTFUL IMPORT AMOUNTS WILL INCREASE MUCH IN NEAR FUTURE
AND MAY GRADUALLY DECREASE SOMEWHAT IF LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL
PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY OR ABOUT TO BEGIN ARE SUCCESSFUL IN

BOOSTIME FOOD CROP YIELDS. SHOULD NOT AFFECT YEMENI INTEREST
IN US RICE, HOWEVER, AND GREATER ACTIVITY BY US WHEAT AND FLOUR
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EXPORTERS SOUGHT BY BOTH YARG AND PRIVATE MERCHANTS.

3. IN OUR EXPERIENCE, FAS MOST USEFUL AS LIAISON BETWEEN
US COMMODITY DEALERS AND PROSPECTIVE FOREIGN BUYERS RATHER THAN
AS MARKET DEVELOPERF AND SELLERS PER SE. PRESENCE IN BEIRUT OF
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS GREAT PLAINS WHEAT HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL
IN THIS REGARD. BELIEVE, THEREFORE, SOME CONSIDERATION
WARRANTED RE EXPANDING BEIRUT FAS OFFICE RATHER THAN BEGINNING
NEW OPERATION FROM SCRATCH. DESPITE DISTANCE, BEIRUT STILL SEEMS
BEST SITE FOR FOLLOWING UP REQUESTS AND CONTACTS MADE IN
PENINSULA. IF BEIRUT UNACCEPTABLE, JIDDA BEST SECOND CHOICE
FROM YAR VIEWPOINT AS YEMENI BUSINESSMEN OVERWHELMINGLY
FAVOR JIDDA AS PENINSULA'S COMMERCIAL FOCAL POINT.
RANSON

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